



Robert Greene Sterne Edward J. Kessler Jorge A. Goldstein David K.S. Cornwell Robert W. Esmond Iracy-Gene G. Durkin Michael B. Ray Robert E. Sokohl Eric K. Steffe Michael Q. Lee Steven R. Ludwig John M. Covert Linda E. Alcom Robert C. Millonig Donald J. Featherstone Lawrence B. Bugaisky Michael V. Messinger Judith II L. W. Timothy J. Shea, Jr.
Patrick E. Garrett
Jeffrey T. Helvey
Heidi L. Kraus
Albert L. Ferro\*
Donald R. Banowit
Peter A. Jackman
Teresa U. Medler
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Kendrick P. Patterson
Vincent L. Capuano
Eldora Ellison Floyd
Thomas C. Fiala
Brian J. Del Buono
Virgil Lee Beaston
Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes
Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cottingham

Christine M. Lhulier Rae Lynn P. Guest George S. Bardmesser Daniel A. Klein\* Jason D. Eisenberg Michael D. Specht Andrea J. Kamage Tracy L. Muller\* Jon E. Wright LuAnne M. DeSantis Ann E. Summerfield Aric W. Ledford\* Helene C. Carlson Cynthia M. Boucher Timothy A. Doyle\* Gaby L. Longsworth Lori A. Gordon\* Nicole D. Dretar Ted J. Ebersole Jyoti C. Iyer\*
Laura A. Vogel
Michael J. Mancuso
Bryan S. Wade
Aaron L. Schwartz
Matthew E. Kelley\*
Nicole R. Kramer\*
Registered Patent Age
Karen R. Markowicz

Registered Patent Agents-Karen R. Markowicz Nancy J. Leith Matthew J. Dowd Aaron L. Schwartz Katrina Yujian Pei Quach Bryan L. Skelton Robert A. Schwartzman Teresa A. Colella Jeffrey S. Lundgren Victoria S. Rutherford Michelle K. Holoubek Simon J. Elliott Julie A. Heider Mita Mukherjee Scott M. Woodhouse Michael G. Penn Christopher J. Walsh Peter A. Socarras

Of Counsel Kenneth C. Bass III Evan R. Smith Marvin C. Guthrie

\*Admitted only in Maryland \*Admitted only in Virginia •Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

February 3, 2005

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER: (202) 772-8619 INTERNET ADDRESS: SCHWARTZ@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re.

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 10/829,381; Filed: April 22, 2004

For: Novel Fluorogenic or Fluorescent Reporter Molecules and Their Applications for Whole-Cell Fluorescence Screening Assays for Caspases and Other Enzymes and the Use Thereof

Inventors:

Weber et al.

Our Ref:

1735.0290006/RWE/ALS

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

- 1. SKGF Cover Letter;
- 2. Preliminary Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115; and
- 3. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.C.: 1100 New York Avenue, NW: Washington, DC 20005: 202.371.2600 f 202.371.2540: www.skgf.com

Commissioner for Patents February 3, 2005 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Aaron L. Schwartz

Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 48,181

ALS/law Enclosures 359589v1

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC. : 1100 New York Avenue, NW : Washington, DC 20005 : 202.371.2600 f 202.371.2540 : www.skgf.com